



Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP

Minister for Education, Training and Employment

Tabled 16.10.12  
Minister for Education,  
Training & Employment

19 SEP 2012

Senator the Honourable Chris Evans  
Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills,  
Science and Research  
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Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Dear Senator Evans

Chris,

The function of delivering services to assist jobseekers to enter the labour market is understood to be a policy responsibility of the Australian Government. The Queensland Government has long recognised the gaps in the employment services delivered by the Federal Government, particularly Job Services Australia assistance. To meet these service delivery gaps, Queensland delivered an extensive suite of targeted grants-based labour market programs over many years, currently known as the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative (SQW).

As part of shaping the 2012-13 budget, the Queensland Government has had to make some tough financial decisions, including the discontinuation of SQW. It is not possible for the Queensland Government to continue to support what could be seen to be a duplication of responsibility.

Deloitte Access Economics recently completed an evaluation of SQW which found that SQW was a successful initiative due to:

- overarching program flexibility;
- innovative funding approach;
- strong regional/community focus;
- commitment to participant needs; and
- transparency and accountability.

The evaluation also found that SQW is more successful than Job Services Australia in generating employment outcomes, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people from a non-English speaking background, mature aged jobseekers and those unemployed less than 12 months.

It is pleasing that Deloitte Access Economics has identified that SQW has led the way in the delivery of labour market programs. Various programs under the *Building Australia's Future Workforce* package are partially moving towards a SQW-type approach. This includes delivery of labour market assistance for the disadvantaged, for example, by incorporating a more localised focus, devolving decision-making and tailoring services to individual needs.

I believe the forthcoming Remote Jobs and Communities Program and the Family Centred Employment Program at Goodna exemplify this new Australian approach. The evaluation identified that the future role of SQW might reasonably be expected to diminish as Australian policy increasingly adopts a best practice approach.

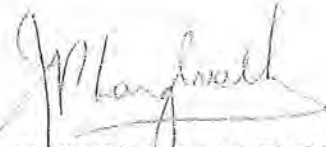
Increasing co-investment in employment services in the State is one recommendation of the SQW evaluation. The difficult fiscal position inherited from the previous government means that Queensland is not in a position to pursue this recommendation at this stage.

I have enclosed a copy of the Deloitte Access Economics report and encourage the Australian Government to review it. The report provides a framework for the continued pursuit of a SQW-type approach to the delivery of labour market assistance for the disadvantaged. I also encourage the Commonwealth employment programs to expand their coverage in Queensland to help fill the gaps in Australian employment service delivery which will be even more evident with the discontinuation of SQW.

Despite the Queensland Government's withdrawal from funding labour market programs, my Department is eager to continue the cooperative relationship that has existed with the Queensland office of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations over many years.

If you or your officers would like further information, I invite you to contact [REDACTED], Executive Director, Employment Initiatives, Department of Education, Training and Employment on telephone [REDACTED] or by email [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely



**JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP**  
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

Ref: 12/336380

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Minister for Education, Training and Employment

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JPL

19 SEP 2012

The Honourable Bill Shorten MP  
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations  
Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Dear Minister

Bill,

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Yours sincerely



**JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP**  
**Minister for Education, Training and Employment**

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